Religious Education Policy

RATIONALE

At St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Catholic Parish Primary School we believe that the Catholic faith and its traditions are central to the purpose of our school. Religious Education permeates all areas of school life, in an environment conducive to the development of a personal relationship with God. We educate our students in the Catholic Faith so that they come to know, worship and love God in everyday life experiences.

AIM

The aim of our Religious Education Program is to develop within each child an awareness of God in:

Self
Others
Our Faith Community
The World

and to create an environment conducive to the development of religious faith. We achieve this by providing the opportunity for personal growth in faith through the Tradition of the Catholic Church: Scripture, Prayer, Sacraments, Liturgy and teachings.

IMPLEMENTATION

Organisation

The domain of Religious Education is situated in the discipline-based learning strand. The domain contains three dimensions of religious learning:

(i) Religious knowledge and understanding (TO KNOW)
(ii) Reasoning and responding (WORSHIP)
(iii) Personal and communal engagement (LOVE)

The Religious Education program is planned for and implemented by the class teacher using the Archdiocesan texts, *To Know, Worship and Love* (and the online version *Coming To Know Worship and Love*) for each level, along with a variety of other resources. This is recorded on a school approved planning sheet. It is incorporated in Faith and Life Inquiry units to ensure authentic links with daily living in our contemporary world. Religious Education is recorded as part of the Faith and Life Inquiry units of work and on a Religious Education planner if the unit is a standalone unit. e.g. Lent, Easter.

A yearly overview is completed in collaboration with the Religious Education Leader.

Sacramental programs are developed collaboratively by teachers and the Religious Education Leader and in consultation with the Parish Priest and Parish Faith Education Leader.

A yearly overview is completed by the Learning Studio teachers, in collaboration with the Religious Education Leader. The Learning Studio Religious Education program is planned for, implemented and evaluated by the Learning Studio teacher. The school’s Religious Education program is evaluated by the Religious Education Leader and the Leadership Team.
Opportunities for the celebration of faith through learning studio and whole school liturgies are incorporated into the life of the school.

Assessment and Reporting
At St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Catholic Parish Primary School, assessment of Religious Education is ongoing and based on the outcomes as detailed in the Archdiocesan texts: *To Know, Worship and Love*.

The Learning Studio teacher articulates a Religious Education focus and program incorporated in their inquiry units and assesses student learning in relation to those outcomes.

A variety of strategies are used to collect and record evidence of students’ development of skills and knowledge. These include:
- Observation of students
- Samples of students’ work and the related analysis of achievement
- Discussions with the student
- Formal assessment
- Student Self Assessment
- Student Portfolio which contains samples of student work as evidence of the content of the written report to parents at mid year and end of year.

Professional Learning
A minimum of 1 day, or equivalent, per year is devoted to Professional and/or Personal Faith Education. Teachers are encouraged to enrich their own personal faith development through Prayer and Liturgy.

Parish Policy Regarding Sacraments
Sacramental Time Line…
- Reconciliation Year 3
- Eucharist Year 4
- Confirmation Year 6

School based Sacramental Program
The Religious Education Leader and learning studio teachers collaboratively support parents in preparing the students for the Sacraments. This is supported by a whole school focus. All students participate in the class program for the preparation of the Sacraments, including those not receiving the Sacrament. Parents are supported with practical information about the program and with faith formation sessions to support them in the preparation of their children for the reception of each of the Sacraments.

Parish School Communication
A strong parish community connection is promoted and maintained through the celebration of Sacraments, Liturgies and Masses. The Parish Priest is an integral part of the development of the Religious Education program, including preparation for Sacraments.

Resources
The core resource of the Religious Education program is the Archdiocesan texts: *To Know, Worship and Love*. There are a variety of resources available to supplement this text.

An annual budget for Religious Education is determined in consultation between the Religious Education Leader and the Principal.
The whole school participates in a liturgy each month. Other special Liturgies are celebrated in accordance with the Liturgical Calendar. These are decided in liaison with the Principal, Religious Education Leader and the Leadership Team.

**Evaluation**
This Policy is evaluated and reviewed as part of the School Improvement Plan.